

Documents on Diplomacy: Resources

Timeline of the Berlin Wall & Change in Europe

- 1945** The Soviet Union captures Berlin and the city is divided into four occupied sectors: Russian, American, British, and French. The eastern sector is occupied by Russia; the remaining Allies occupy the western sectors. This leads to the division of Berlin (located in the Russian sector) into two cities: East and West Berlin.
- 1949** The Soviets blockade West Berlin. The Allies conduct the Berlin Airlift to feed the city.
- 1949** Two countries are created—the Democratic Republic of Germany (East) and the Federal Republic of Germany (West.)
- 1961** The border between East and West Berlin is closed. Barbed wire and fencing are erected with more elaborate concrete walls, watchtowers, and fortified areas evolving over the years.
- 1963** John F. Kennedy's "*ich bin ein Berliner*" speech in West Berlin,
- 1971** Four-Power Agreement on Berlin reduced travel restrictions from West Germany to West Berlin. Also created opening of trade and diplomacy between East and West Germany.
- 1974–76** Additional construction of a wall deeper inside East Germany.
- 1980** Rise of Solidarity Movement in Poland, a challenge to Communist domination.
- 1987** Ronald Reagan delivers his speech at the Berlin Wall.
- 1989** Government of Hungary opens its border with Austria, allowing thousands of East Germans to escape through Austria.
- Hungary reopens its border with East Germany.
 - The East German leader is forced to resign.
 - One million people attend a pro-democracy rally in East Berlin.
 - The Berlin Wall falls.
 - "Velvet Revolution" occurs in Czechoslovakia and Communist government resigns.
 - Romanian dictator resigns.
- 1990** Hungary elects a non-communist government
- East and West Germany become ONE country.
 - Poland elects Lech Walesa president.
 - Baltic countries gain independence from the Soviet Union.
 - The devolution of the Soviet Union

The end of the Cold War?